

**Senate Education Committee Hearing
3/22/10**

Rapoport Academy Public School (Waco, TX)
Dr. Nancy Grayson, Founder/Superintendent

Opened 1998 with 16 students- pre k through 1st grades – now serving 376 students pre k through 12 grade.

Our entire staff is dedicated to the relentless pursuit for each student’s success through small class size and student support systems. We build a culture in our learning environment that includes the expectation that each student will be going to college. 100% of our 24 seniors of 2010 have been accepted to college.

Student Population Demographics for 2009-2010

Campus	% minority	% Economic Disadvan.	% at risk	% male	% female
Elementary	79%	83%	61%	43%	57%
Middle	67%	57%	27%	49%	51%
High school	48%	59%	32%	54%	46%
District	68%	70%	45%	47%	53%

Summary Enrollment Chart as per 2009/2010: 376 students

Ethnicity	African American	Hispanic	White
Elementary	73%	4%	21%
Middle School	53%	14%	33%
High School	30%	16%	52%
District	57%	10%	32%
	Elementary	Middle	High School
Free/Reduced Lunch	83%	57%	59%
District = 70%			

Best Practices Examples

College focus beginning in Pre Kindergarten – building college culture

- College tours beginning in 5th grade
- College entry year beginning in pre k
- College coursework begins in 9th grade
- Collaborative partnership with Texas State Technical College
 - Professors teach college courses on high school campus
 - Students enroll & attend classes on college campus
 - Students enroll in college on-line courses
 - College opens labs (with staff) for high school robotics team
 - College provides leadership for high school Aviation Club
 - College designs courses to meet needs of high school students
 - Students can earn up to 72 college credits by high school grad.

Innovative administrative structure – student focused – team based

- Master teacher on each campus – academic engagement
- Dean of students on each campus – student support
- Structure is linear and not hierarchical with teams involved in decision making (no campus principals/assistant principals)

Support system for innovation

- Small student/teacher ratio (approx. 13:1)
- We modify programs for effectiveness like the turn of a speedboat rather than the slow turn of a tanker – because we are small and agile
- We hire the best and terminate the weak
- No scripted lessons

Community Culture of excellence

- High academic expectations
- High behavioral expectations
 - Core values based:
 - Respect
 - Responsibility
 - Creativity
 - Curiosity
 - Integrity
 - Hard work
- Small school size enables us to engage each student as a member of the community of learners
- Community Council – students who intervene as a panel meeting with students who have “issues” – bringing these students back into the community
- Rapport Ambassadors at the middle school who maintain high academic standards and represent the best of the Academy

Academic Excellence Support Systems:

- Tutoring on all campuses (before/after school)
- Instructional strategies training for teachers (Communities Fdn/JFF)
- Data-driven decision making
- Summer programs (camp style) on each campus
 - Elementary campus
 - “Jump Ropes and Jacks”
 - Middle school
 - Archeological studies and digs
 - Lego robotics camps
 - High school
 - Assisting middle school with robotics camps
- Expansive curriculum with TEKS as the foundation (like the slab of a house construction project) and breadth and depth added (like the construction of a magnificent house on top of the slab) – thus leading to the enthusiasm of learning as reflected in our 97+% attendance rate
- Total redesign of PE programs to include math and science with an emphasis on educating students about the benefits of physical activity on the body and academic achievement (thus reducing obesity, heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, etc.)
- “Remodeling” teaching to go beyond algorithmic learning to include conceptual learning
- Expansion of foreign language classes: Spanish, German, Latin, Chinese

Parent Involvement Programs

- Elementary Parent Academies 3 times per year – students from Pre K through 4th teach their parents a science or math experiment they have learned in class
- Parent/teacher conferences – quarterly – conversational interchanges with explanations of the report card. Parents must attend a conference before they can receive the report card.
- Parenting round tables in the evenings with a licensed counselor explaining positive parenting techniques and helping parents deal with normal developmental issues

The above are samples – full roster would be very long!

Rapoport Academy Public School – Waco, TX

TAKS Scores Comparison Chart / Neighborhood Schools Based on available data of spring 2009 TAKS scores

Percent of students passing state standards by grade level

Comparison of two area school districts with Rapoport Academy Public School – middle & high school

Grade level & school	Reading	Math	Writing	Science	Social Studies
5 th – Waco ISD	84%	87%	N/A	68%	N/A
5 th – Midway ISD	98%	100%	N/A	93%	N/A
5th – Rapoport Academy	100%	100%	N/A	90%	N/A
6 th – Waco ISD	86%	65%	N/A	N/A	N/A
6 th – Midway ISD	98%	92%	N/A	N/A	N/A
6th – Rapoport Academy	100%	88%	N/A	N/A	N/A
7 th – Waco ISD	76%	59%	90%	N/A	N/A
7 th – Midway ISD	91%	88%	98%	N/A	N/A
7th – Rapoport Academy	100%	88%	100%	N/A	N/A
8 th – Waco ISD	95%	73%	N/A	54%	87%
8 th – Midway ISD	99%	91%	N/A	84%	94%
8th – Rapoport Academy	100%	100%	N/A	93%	100%
9 th – Waco ISD	85%	53%	N/A	N/A	N/A
9 th – Midway ISD	99%	82%	N/A	N/A	N/A
9th – Rapoport Academy	100%	94%	N/A	N/A	N/A
10 th – Waco ISD	86%	55%	N/A	56%	88%
10 th – Midway ISD	98%	80%	N/A	85%	98%
10th – Rapoport Academy	96%	90%	N/A	86%	100%
11 th – Waco ISD	88%	65%	N/A	74%	94%
11 th – Midway ISD	98%	92%	N/A	95%	99%
11th – Rapoport Academy	96%	92%	N/A	96%	100%

Percent of all students passing state standards per district across all grade levels:

School	Reading	Math	Writing	Science	Social Studies
Waco ISD	85%	69%	90%	63%	90%
Midway ISD	98%	92%	97%	90%	97%
LaVega ISD	84%	70%	85%	59%	83%
Connally ISD	87%	75%	83%	66%	92%
Rapoport Academy	95%	91%	86%	91%	100%

Iowa Test of Basic Skills Scores (Pre-Test: August 2008; Post-Test: May 2009)





